

CLAIMS

1. A single use inhaler for administering medicament by inhalation, the inhaler comprising:

5 an inhalation channel (10,12) through which a user may inhale; a container (18) for containing a dose of medicament; and a release means (22) for releasing said dose into the said inhalation channel; wherein the inhaler further comprises:

10 at least one subsidiary container (20) for containing a subsidiary dose of medicament; at least one respective subsidiary release means (24) for releasing said subsidiary dose into said inhalation channel; wherein

15 said release means (22) is independently operable of said at least one subsidiary release means (24) such that one or more of said dose and said subsidiary dose may be released into said inhalation channel at the same time and such that a variable dose is provided.

2. An inhaler according to claim 1 wherein said container (18) and said at least one subsidiary container (20) are integral parts of the inhaler.

20 3. An inhaler according to claim 2 wherein said container (18) and said at least one subsidiary container (20) comprise depressions in at least one wall (12, 38, 50) of said inhalation channel and said release means (22) and said subsidiary release means (24) respectively comprise films sealing said depressions.

25 4. An inhaler according to claim 3 wherein said release means (22) and said subsidiary release means (24) comprise one or more elongate members attached to or integral with said films and with respective free ends which may be pulled by a user in order to remove the films from their respective depressions, thereby releasing the medicament contained in the respective depressions.

A<sup>2</sup> 5. An inhaler according to any preceding claim wherein said medicament is in a powdered form.

A<sup>3</sup> 6. An inhaler according to any preceding claim wherein the subsidiary dose of said at least one said subsidiary container is a predetermined fraction of said dose.

A<sup>4</sup> 7. An inhaler according to any preceding claim wherein the inhaler comprises at least two subsidiary containers and the subsidiary dose of each of said at least two subsidiary containers is a predetermined fraction of said dose.

10 8. An inhaler according to claim 7 wherein said subsidiary doses include different predetermined fractions of said dose.

15 9. A method of providing a variable dose in a single use inhaler having an inhalation channel through which a user may inhale, a container for containing a dose of medicament and a release means for releasing said dose into said inhalation channel, said method comprising:

20     providing at least one subsidiary container (20) in said single use container for containing a subsidiary dose of medicament;

25     providing at least one respective subsidiary release means (24) for releasing said subsidiary dose of medicament into said inhalation channel; and

   arranging for said release means (22) to be independently operable of said subsidiary release means (24) such that one or both of said dose and said subsidiary dose may be released into said inhalation channel at the same time and such that a variable dose is provided.

10. A method of providing a variable quantity of substance in a channel comprising;  
opening a first container containing said substance and dispensing said substance in  
said channel;  
selectively opening a second container containing said substance according to the total  
quantity of substance required and dispensing said substance in said channel.